

Cyclone Struck This Community Just 41 Years Ago Today

William Pope Residence Totally Destroyed; Several Other Houses Were Badly Damaged

By ED ROGERS
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The City of Carbondale was the scene of a cyclone which damaged several homes and totally destroyed at least one home on Forty-Second street and a large barn on upper Belmont street, just 41 years ago today—August 30, 1905.

Homes in the Dundaff, Green and Forty-Second street areas along with those on the upper end of Belmont street were the targets for the twisters which swept in through the cut in west mountain near the reservoir. One of the homes most badly damaged was that of William Pope, Sr., 37 Forty Second street. The Pope residence was totally destroyed. Other homes which were damaged included those of John Fallon, John Doyle, Jacob Rosler and Patrick Hart.

William J. Pope, well known local business man who was seven months old at the time, recently related the story to a News reporter as it had been told to him.

He was asleep in a cradle at the time the twister made its appearance. Others in the Pope residence at the time were his sister Mary, now Mrs. Frank Gilroy of 69 Fank-

lin street; his sister Evelyn, now Mrs. Martin Robinson of Harrison, N. J.; his mother, who died in 1935 and his father, William Sr. His father who is still living was injured slightly.

William Jr. was pinned beneath the wreckage in his bed and was removed when Edwin Petick, who died in 1930, and the late Patrick Cuff lifted up the debris allowing Mrs. Pope to get to him.

The twister left the West Side section and swept across the Delaware and Hudson yards onto Belmont street where it demolished a large barn. It lost its force and spread out in the direction of Number Four dam. It was in this dam that the Pope's found some of their rugs which had been on the floor of their house, floating.

Mrs. Ed Pethick, who now resides at 203 Farview street related the following account of the event this morning:

"My sister Ida (now Mrs. Joseph John of Allentown) returned from Scranton about seven o'clock and it was a beautiful night, although it was thundering and lightning. The sky was all lit up.

"All of a sudden the wind started

to blow hard and my husband and I started to lower the windows. As he went to lower one of them he saw the tail end of the cyclone pass over the D. and H. yards.

"When we looked out of the window on the other side of the house we could see Pope's all in ruins. Their home was located where Paul Criscera now lives. My husband and Pat Cuff went out and helped rescue young Billy Pope from the home. He had been asleep in one of my cradles when the storm started.

"Later Mr. Petchick went up on Farview street and most of the people had not heard about the cyclone until he told them. It all happened that quick.

"One of the incidents I remember about the storm was that a large beam from the Pope house was picked up by the wind and sailed down Dundaff street and crashed through the front door and into the cellar of a home located at the corner of Dundaff street and Peck avenue. The home was then occupied by a family by the name of Devine, I believe."

Reports have it that people down town didn't know about the twister until told about it.

The Pethick home, located at 70 Green street and directly behind the Pope residence was not damaged at all.